GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:330
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
Forest Cover
Mishra Shri Bhairon Prasad

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the area under forest cover during the last three and the current Five Year Plan period, plan-wise;
(b) whether there is any norm regarding ratio of population to forest area for ecological balance/good environment in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(c) the ranking of the country and States as per international norms; and
(d) the details of plans/schemes drawn for the development/expansion of forest area in the country along with the funds made available and utilised during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 330 by Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra due for reply on 22.12.2015.

(a) The Forest Survey of India has been carrying out the assessment of forest cover on biennial basis since 1987 using remote sensing technology. The findings are published in the India State of Forest Report latest being India State of Forest Report 2015. The total forest cover and percentage thereof as per previous three Reports of Forest Survey of India are given as under:-

S. No.	Year	Total Forest Cover (in Square Kilometer)	Percentage of the forest cover to the total Geographical area
1	2011	6,92,027	21.05
2	2013	6,97,898	21.23
3	2015	7,01,673	21.34

(b) There is no norm regarding ratio of population to forest area for ecological balance/good environment in the country. However, the National Forest Policy, 1988 (NFP) aims to have a minimum of one third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover.
(c) As per the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 (GFRA) recently launched in September, 2015, India is one of the top ten countries in world by forest area. However, there is no such ranking for the States.
(d) For development/expansion of forest area in the country, afforestation Programme is taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Green India Mission (GIM), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) which from 2015-16 has been amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component of the "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)". National Bamboo Mission (NBM) and under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), different State

Plan/ Non- Plan Schemes including Externally Aided Projects. National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for afforestation and tree plantation and eco-restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. The Scheme is being implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at Village levels. Since inception of this programme an amount of Rs. 3545 crore has been invested to treat an area of 20.99 lakh hectare till 2014-15. The State-wise details of fund released under National Afforestation Programme during last three years and current year are given in Annexure I.

Further, the Green India Mission aims at increasing the forest/ tree cover by 5 million hectare as well as, increasing the quality of the existing forest cover in another 5 million hectare. The Ministry has released Rs.4994.55 lakhs and 1265.50 lakhs to the States in the financial year 2011-12 and 2013-14 for preparatory activities for implementation of Green India Mission. The activities undertaken by the State Governments under preparatory phase include institutional strengthening, training, identification of landscapes and preparation of Perspective Plan for implementation of Green India Mission. The Year-wise and State-wise details of allocation of funds are given in Annexure-II.

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